METHODS

Sample

INTRODUCTION

Parents of disabled children have several problems during care process of their children. Restricted social activities (1), stress (1, 2), burden, being marginalized, having limited or no professional support (3), inadequate night sleep, limited time for their alimentation (4), sadness, financial problems (5) were primary issues.

Some factors affected the coping status of parents. Father’s education level, informal social support and stress were associated with coping. There were no statistically significant relations between child’s age, severity of child’s disease, parental health and coping behaviours (6).

Nurse has a key role to provide optimal care for parents of disabled children (5). Nurse should be sensitive to parents’ culture (7), issues of disability (4) and should find resources (6) during care process.

AIM

To determine the hope and learned resourcefulness levels of parents of disabled children.

TOOLS

Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics data form

Herth Hope Scale, developed by Dr. Kaye Herth, measures the hope levels of individuals. Four subscales are available. There are 30 articles in the scale. Total score ranges between 0 and 90 points while subscale scores are between 0 and 30 points. High points mean high level of hope. Cronbach’s alpha reliability coefficient was determined as 0.90 in our study.

Rosenbaum’s Learned Resourcefulness Scale (RLRS), developed by Rosenbaum, measures the coping strategies in the context of the scale. Total scores are between 36 and 180. High scores demonstrate high level of self-control abilities. Cronbach’s alpha reliability coefficient was determined as 0.82 in our study.

TOTAL scores for both scales were transformed into a 100 points system in order to interpret the results easily.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Descriptive statistics, Student’s t test, Mann-Whitney U Test, Kruskall Wallis Variance Analysis, Spearman Correlation

RESULTS

The mean age of parents was 33.59 ± 6.01 (range: 21-54) while the mean age of disabled children was 8.65 ± 4.56 (range: 1-24).

CONCLUSIONS

• Hope and learned resourcefulness of parents of disabled children were above middle level.
• Male parents’ hope scores were higher than those of female parents.
• Defining and supporting parents who have problems during nursing care process will provide an uninterrupted adaptation process and positive care outcomes.

REFERENCES

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